

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 13, 2005

MINUTES

1. Called to order at 8:30 am by Marilyn Wilkinson.
2. Opportunity for Members of Public to Speak on Any Items Not on Today's Agenda
3. Approval of April 8, 2005 Minutes
 - Approval of April minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVE APRIL MINUTES – John Degenfelder, 2ND Paul Davis
ALL IN FAVOR – 6-0-0

4. DEPARTMENT REPORT – Jason Hemmens
 - On Tuesday, May 24, 2005 we will be having our Land Use and Environment Group (LUEG) Fair at San Dieguito Park. There will be two sessions at 9:00 – 11:00 am or 1:00 – 3:00 pm. This is an event where all of the departments of our group (Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Planning and Land Use, Environmental Health, Agriculture, Weights and Measures, Air Pollution Control District) get together and see what each other is doing. There will be booths, etc to showcase each department. The theme is community outreach and we are inviting all committee members to come and participate.
 - Just a reminder that Saturday, June 4th is National Trails Day and we will be holding events at Los Penasquitos Canyon.
 - Earlier this week we just found out that we received a very prestigious award from the National Association of County Parks and Recreation Organization, for the County Trails Plan.
5. ACTION ITEMS
 - Fiscal Year 2006 Budget
 - ◆ We have received the Governor's 2006 budget and so far it doesn't look as bad as last year, but we are not getting any additional money.
 - ◆ The proposed County budget includes additional monies for the Spring Valley Gym and Teen Center and the County Trails Program.
 - ◆ The down side to this is that we did not receive any additional Full-Time equivalent positions for either of these, which could prove to be a little difficult, but we are thinking creatively on ways to meet program needs without hiring permanent positions.
 - Doug Goad – What about using non-profit groups like the Boy Scouts, etc to help with the program.
 - ◆ We will always look into those types of groups for help, but some of the positions like at the gym will need a qualified staff person there to run the facility.
 - ◆ At this time it is not really crucial or necessary for this committee to take any action on the County budget, but I will definitely keep all of you updated if anything changes.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Draft Parks Advisory Committee Operating Procedures: Appointments to Subcommittees – Renée Bahl
 - ◆ Distributed a draft Parks Advisory Committee Operating Procedure relating to Appointments to Subcommittees. Draft states: It is the practice of the San Diego County Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) that any sub or ad hoc committees needing PAC official representation will be brought to a public meeting of this committee and the committee will vote on who should be the designated representative. The PAC will take both expertise in the subject matter, and/or representation of the district into consideration when selecting a member.
 - ◆ We have brought this forward today as a discussion item so that you can look at it and discuss the content and then take action at the next meeting.
 - Marilyn Wilkinson – Does anyone on the committee have any comments or recommendations for changes to the proposed language?
 - ◆ No comments or recommended changes were suggested by any committee members present.
 - ◆ We will bring this forward for action at the next meeting as proposed.
- Barnett Ranch – Cory Linder
 - ◆ We are still working on the habitat management plan for the area.
 - ◆ This parcel of land we found has 5 plant species, 28 wildlife, and 27 archeological sites.
 - ◆ This is all part of the San Diego River watershed.
 - ◆ This property has an opportunity for a lot of trail connections in all directions.
 - ◆ There is a portion of Barnett Ranch on the north side of San Vicente Road.
 - ◆ All of our plans is consistent with the Ramona Community Trails Plan.
 - ◆ We are doing very well in this area obtaining land and the possibility of future trail connections.
 - ◆ We really want to use Barnett as a way to find what are the best management practices to use all over the county.
 - Paul Davis – Have you ever thought of using goats on the property
 - John Degenfelder – Are you having any problems with the previous owner of the property and his house on it.
 - ◆ We will have to work with him and make sure that we understand and have an agreement as to the road and public access.
 - Doug Goad – So in these new purchases in the area are there already a lot of trails in existence and so you won't have to do too much to the area to make it usable?
 - ◆ That is always our goal and many of these properties already have trails, but we will still evaluate them to make sure that they fit into the larger scheme of things and are safe and usable.
 - Jim Peugh – You said that you are revising the fire management plan since the fires, what are you doing?
 - ◆ We are just looking at what we can do to be better prepared for fires and looking at what plants are better with fire, come back faster, if having prescribed burns occasionally would be beneficial, etc. We are looking at everything and trying to find the best plan for each area. These are being done as site specific.
 - Jim Peugh – Will these trails be usable for equestrians and what about the cow birds and others coming into the area and taking over.

- ♦ We plan to make most of our trails as non-motorized multi-use. Of course, there will be some exceptions, but we want to give the trail experience to all of our users. We will be continuing to monitor the areas and watch out for these types of issues that will pop-up.
 - Paul Davis – Have you thought about putting deer and natural animals back into the habitat instead of cattle.
- ♦ We really leave most of these kind of issues to the Department of Fish and Game.
- Wildfire Recovery – Renée Bahl
 - ♦ We continue to work on rebuilding Oakoasis and Louis Stelzer Parks off of Wildcat Canyon Road, but there is still quite a bit of work to do and we will keep you updated.
 - ♦ Next Friday, May 20, 2005 we will be having the re-opening at Hellhole Canyon. We did have an opening previously, but this will be reopening all of the facilities and the majority of the trails.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

- ♦ Marilyn Wilkinson – How are things going with the City of San Diego's request to raise the PLDO fees?
 - The City has decided to put this on hold for now; most likely until next Spring. The County will not be bringing it forward until at least next calendar year.
- ♦ Mike McCoy – Is the MSCP something that is being implemented in other counties?
 - Yes, many places are starting to do this, but we are a little farther ahead than most of the other counties because we are already in the acquisition phase.
- ♦ Mike McCoy – I would like to bring this forward as something that we can occasionally bring forward and discuss because there is becoming a big issue of connectivity between borders. I would really like to discuss the design and development of new ways of thinking between human activity, wildlife and land preservation, and the watersheds. I think that we should look at how our committee links with other committees and how the agencies can start working together at this and having larger connectivity. I think that this could be a series of agenda items to address the various issues on this subject.
- ♦ Doug Goad – I was able to connect the Aerospace Museum with the consultant building the new Finney Overlook and they are going to work together on this.
- ♦ Jim Peugh – I think that this county is going to continue to develop and we need to keep obtaining these preserve areas and building parks or very soon we aren't going to have any of these areas for people to enjoy.
- ♦ Doug Goad – There is an office in the State that is on trails and there is a conference for the rails to trails, which is very good and informative. There are a lot of good things that are in this. Jeffrey Sharp is from the California State Parks office of trails.

8. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 9:50 am by Marilyn Wilkinson.

ATTENDEES:

Mike McCoy, District 1

Marilyn Wilkinson, District 2

John Degenfelder, District 2

Doug Goad, District 3

Paul Davis, District 3

Jim Peugh, District 4

Rod Groenewold, District 5 (arrived during Item 5 – Budget)

Jason Hemmens, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Renee Bahl, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Cory Linder, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Sabrina Hicks, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation